(c) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06 and further to 195 in 2006-07.

Broad gauge rail line from Armur to Adilabad

1686. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for broad gauge railway line connection from Armur in Nizamabad district to Adilabad *via* Nirmal route;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) if not, whether there is any likelihood of taking it up in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for new broad gauge railway line (136 km.) from Armur to Adilabad was conducted in the year 1998-99. Cost of this project was assessed as Rs. 273 crore with negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, the same was shelved. There is at present no proposal to take up this new line.

Collision of trains near Gorakhpur

1687. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a head on collision between a goods train and a passenger train near Gorakhpur in U.P. in January last;

(b) if so, the number of persons including Railway personnel who lost their lives and those who were seriously injured in the mishap;

(c) whether statutory inquiry into this accident has been held; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of level-crossings in Orissa

†1688. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct rail over-bridges at National Highway 23 level-crossing at Chainpal before Talcher station and at National Highway 42 level-crossing before Boeinda station;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.